

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4872

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN PFOR PLO XF

SUBJ: ARRANGEMENTS FOR PLO DELEGATION IN NEW YORK

REF: BEIRUT 13357

IN ADDITION TO MESSAGE BEING SENT FROM DEPT WE HAVE
FOLLOWING FACTS AND OBSERVATIONS FROM USUN STANDPOINT:

1. GOE REPS IN NEW YORK HAVE PLAYED NO ROLE IN ARRANGE-
MENTS FOR PLO GROUP AND HAVE GIVEN NO INDICATION THAT
THEY WILL DO SO.

2. ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALL ASPECTS HOST COUNTRY RESPONSIBILI-
TIES REGARDING PLO DEL ARE BEING COORDINATED BY USUN IN
COOPERATION WITH FEDERAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES. USUN IS
DEALING DIRECTLY WITH PLO REP IN NEW YORK. UN SECRETARIAT
IS RESPONSIBLE ONLY FOR NOTIFICATION TO USG OF COMPOSITION
OF PLO PARTY AND SECURITY WITHIN UN PREMISES.

3. FROM PARA 1(B) REFTEL WE ARE UNCLEAR WHETHER HOUT
IS REFERRING TO 2 OR 3 PARTIES, I.E. IS "ARAFAT AND HIS
PARTY" PART OF "PLO OFFICIAL DELEGATION"? WE ARE
HANDLING ENTIRE GROUP AS SINGLE PARTY ALTHOUGH IT IS
CONCEIVABLE THAT NOT ALL MEMBERS WOULD BE HOUSED TOGETHER.
SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, HOWEVER, DICTATE SINGLE LOCATION
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IF POSSIBLE.

4. IN LIGHT OF PLO REACTION TO GOVERNOR'S ISLAND SUGGESTION AND OTHER PROBLEMS REGARDING THAT LOCATION, WE ARE NOW ACTIVELY CONSIDERING QUARTERS IN HOTEL, PRIVATE APARTMENTS OR, LESS LIKELY, PRIVATE HOUSE. BELIEVE THAT EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO PLO THAT USG WILL NOT BE PROVIDING ACCOMMODATIONS, FOOD, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER SERVICES FOR PLO DEL. BECAUSE OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND BECAUSE OF SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, WE ARE PLAYING MORE ACTIVE ROLE THAN USUAL IN SEARCH FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION. WE HAVE CONSULTED WITH HASSAN ON THIS POINT AND HE CONCURRED THAT ANY BILLS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS, CAR RENTALS, HELICOPTERS, ETC. WILL BE SENT TO HIM.

5. FYI: AS FINAL RESORT ARAFAT AND/OR ENTIRE PARTY COULD BE PUT UP AT UN IN SOMEWHAT SPARSE ACCOMMODATIONS. HOWEVER, AS HOST COUNTRY WE PREFER TO BE ABLE OFFER ALTERNATIVES AND HAVE PLO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH A CHOICE IF IT MADE. END FYI.

6. REGARDING TRANSPORTATION, SECRET SERVICE WILL PROVIDE HELICOPTERS AND GROUND TRANSPORTATION FOR ARAFAT AND HIS IMMEDIATE AIDES (NO MORE THAN 2 OR 3). FOR THE REST OF THE PARTY WE WILL BE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CAR RENTALS AND HELICOPTERS, TRANSPORTATION FOR THE AIRPORT AS NECESSARY, AT PLO EXPENSE.

7. USG HAS NO INTENTION OF "SEALING OFF" PLO DEL FROM ANYTHING EXCEPT THREATS TO THEIR PERSONAL SECURITY. DEL WILL HAVE FULL ACCESS TO PRESS AND OTHER MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

8. EMBASSY BEIRUT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT US AUTHORITIES ARE TREATING SECURITY THREAT OCCASIONED BY PLO VISIT (ARAFAT'S PRESENCE IN PARTICULAR) AS EXTRAORDINARY. IN DISCUSSING SECURITY PROBLEM WITH PLO WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO EMPHASIZE THAT OUR CONCERNS ARE NOT LIMITED TO HOSTILE NEW YORK CROWDS OR GROUPS SUCH AS JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE. WE ARE TAKING MEASURES TO PROTECT MEMBERS OF PLO DEL AGAINST THREATS TO THEIR SECURITY FROM WHATEVER SOURCE, CONFIDENTIAL

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INSIDE OR OUTSIDE US.

9. IN OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH SADAT HASSAN AND WITH UN SECRETARIAT WE HAVE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED US POSITION THAT PLO DEL MUST BE KEPT TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM NUMBER NEEDED TO DO THE JOB. EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF DEL, EACH MOVEMENT OF ALL OR PART OF DEL AND EACH SOCIAL OCCASION DILUTE OUR FINITE CAPACITY TO PROVIDE SECURITY. UNDER THESE CIRCUM-

STANCES, WE FEEL WE HAVE DUTY TO INSIST THAT DELEGATION
INCLUDE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM NUMBER. HONORARY MEMBERS
OR HANGERS-ON WHOSE PRESENCE UNESSENTIAL WOULD INCREASE
RISK TO PRINCIPALS AND COULD THUS DETRACT FROM
EFFECTIVENESS OF DELEGATION.
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